

Competition Format and Rules

Format et règlement des compétitions

As of WED 21 OCT 2026

Youth Olympic Competition Format

The futsal competition at Dakar 2026 Summer Youth Olympic Games consists of a men's event and a women's event. Both events have the same competition format and rules. The teams are divided into two groups of four teams in the group stage. Each team plays every other team in its group once (single round robin). The two teams ranked first and second in each group progress to the semi-finals, while the remaining four teams are eliminated from the competition. The knock-out stage consists of the semi-finals and finals (gold medal and bronze medal matches) and is played according to a knock-out system. The semi-final winners play in the gold medal match, and the runners-up play in the bronze medal match.

Differences between the FIFA Futsal World Cup and the Summer Youth Olympic Games

There are 24 participating teams at the FIFA Futsal World Cup and 16 participating teams at the FIFA Futsal Women's World Cup. Each team at the FIFA Futsal World Cup consists of 14 players (two of whom shall be goalkeepers). The format at the FIFA Futsal World Cup is different.

Changes since Buenos Aires 2018 Summer Youth Olympic Games

There are eight teams in each event. The groups for the women's event will be group A and group B, and the groups for the men's event will be group A and group B.

Sport Rules and Procedures

All matches will be played in accordance with the FIFA Futsal Laws of the Game. The FIFA Disciplinary Code, the Doping Control Regulations for FIFA Competitions and other FIFA Directives apply to the futsal tournaments.

Age categories

Only athletes aged 17 and under at the start of the Youth Olympic Games may compete.

Tie Break Rules

Group stage ranking:

The group stage is played in groups. The matches will be evaluated as follows:

- Each match won = three points
- Each match won in extra time = two points
- Each match won in a penalty shoot-out = one point
- Each match lost = zero points

There must be a winning team after every match.

Equal points and qualification for knock-out stage:
If two or more teams in the same group are equal on points after the completion of the group stage, the following steps, in the order below, shall be applied to determine the ranking:
Step 1:
a) Greatest number of points obtained in the group matches between the teams concerned;
b) Superior goal difference resulting from the group matches between the teams concerned;
c) Greatest number of goals scored in all group matches between the teams concerned.

Step 2:
If, after having applied criteria a) to c) above, teams still have an equal ranking, criteria a) to c) above are applied to the matches between the remaining teams only in order to determine their final rankings. If no decision can be made through this procedure, criteria d) to f) below shall apply as follows to the two or more teams still equal on points:
d) Superior goal difference in all group matches;
e) Greatest number of goals scored in all group matches;



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f) Highest team conduct score (players and team officials) relating to the number of yellow and red cards obtained:
- yellow card: minus 1 point
- indirect red card (as a result of two yellow cards): minus 3 points
- direct red card: minus 4 points
- yellow card and direct red card: minus 5 points

Only one of the above deductions shall be applied to a player or team official in a single match. The team with the highest number of points shall be ranked highest.

With respect to the second step, all affected teams will be ranked by applying the criteria d) to f) in order. If one team qualifies for a higher or lower ranking pursuant to one criterion, but it is not possible to rank all teams on the basis of the same criterion, the remaining two or three teams will be ranked pursuant to the next criterion, and so on. In any case, the second step of the ranking does not restart for the two or three teams remaining after application of a criterion

g) Drawing of lots by FIFA.

Only goals scored during regular time and extra time will be considered under the above resolution criteria.

Match Description

The main object of futsal is to score more goals than the opponent in order to win the match. Futsal is played by two teams of five players each: One goalkeeper and four outfield players. Each team tries to score into the opponent's goal and to prevent the other team from scoring. The ball may be passed, tapped, rolled or dribbled in any direction using the feet. All actions are subject to the Competition Regulations and the Futsal Laws of the Game. The playing field shall be a flat, rectangular pitch of smooth and non-abrasive surfaces, preferably made of wood or artificial material. The pitch shall measure 40 metres in length, by 20 metres in width.

Each team consists of 10 players. The team must use a goalkeeper at all times. No more than five players (four outfield players and one goalkeeper) may be present on the pitch at any given time. The remaining players are substitutes and remain on the substitutes' bench. An unlimited number of substitutions per team may be used during a match; the relevant official must be informed of substitutions and the player to be replaced must leave the pitch before the substitute can commence playing. A substitute may replace a sent off player and enter the pitch after two minutes of playing time have elapsed since the player was sent off, unless a goal is scored before the two minutes have elapsed (under certain conditions).

The team which scores the highest number of goals is the winner. Every game must have a winner. Playing time is made up of two periods of 20 minutes with a half-time break of 15 minutes. Teams are entitled to a single one minute time-out in each period.

In both the group stage and the knock-out stage (semi-finals or gold medal match), if the game is drawn after 40 minutes, then extra time is played (two periods of three minutes). If the game remains drawn after extra time (50 minutes), then the winner is determined by penalties (penalty shoot-out).

If the bronze-medal match is not played directly before the gold-medal match and is level at the end of normal playing time, extra time shall be played (two periods of three minutes each) and followed, if necessary, by penalties (penalty shoot-out) to determine the winner. However, if the match is played directly before the gold-medal match and is level at the end of normal playing time, no extra time shall be played, and the winner shall be determined by penalties (penalty shoot-out).

Penalties / Disqualification Rules

Every player (including substitutes) is liable to undergo a doping test. Any player or team that refuses to undergo a doping test, falsifies the results, or is found guilty of taking a banned substance will be excluded from the final competition and referred to the FIFA Disciplinary Committee. Any official who encourages or incites a player to commit any of the aforementioned infringements will also be excluded from the final competition and referred to the FIFA Disciplinary Committee.

Any player who is not able to prove his identity before the start of the final competition will be disqualified.

If a team refuses to play a match in the final competition, it will be disqualified from further participation.



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Any team that fields an ineligible player will be referred to the FIFA Disciplinary Committee. In accordance with the FIFA Disciplinary Code, the team shall be sanctioned by forfeiture of the match. The win and relevant three points will automatically be awarded to the opponent, as well as a score of at least 5-0.

Protests / Appeals

Protests shall be submitted in writing to the FIFA Match Director within two hours of the match in question, as well as via the FIFA Legal Portal at legalportal.fifa.com (cf. art. 18 par. 1 of the FIFA Disciplinary Code) within 24 hours of the end of the match; otherwise, they shall be disregarded.

Protests regarding incidents during a match should be taken up by the captain and directed at the referee. No protests may be made against the referee's decision regarding facts connected with play; his decision is final.

Protests regarding the eligibility of players nominated for matches shall be submitted via the FIFA Legal Portal at legalportal.fifa.com (cf. art. 18 par. 1 of the FIFA Disciplinary Code) no later than five days before the first match of the YOFTs. Such protests shall be dealt with by the FIFA Disciplinary Committee.

As provided for in the FIFA Statutes, recourse to ordinary courts of law is prohibited unless specifically provided for in the FIFA regulations. Recourse to ordinary courts of law for all types of provisional measures is also prohibited.

The Participating Member Associations and all Delegation Members acknowledge and accept that, once all internal channels have been exhausted at FIFA, their sole legal recourse shall be to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in Lausanne, Switzerland, as provided for in the FIFA Statutes, and unless excluded by the FIFA Statutes or applicable FIFA regulations. Any such arbitration proceedings shall be governed by the CAS Code of Sports-related Arbitration.

Note:
For further information please consult: www.fifa.com